

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION OF \_\_\_\_\_ FILE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 10-12-84

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

On Thursday, October 4, 1984, I received a call on the pager at 3:00 a.m. from the fire department about a truck wreck at Broadway and I-44. The dispatcher said that the truck was carrying a blasting compound that was a slurry type liquid. At 2:00 a.m. a semi truck owned by Atlas Powder Company, of Treece, Kansas (Mo. License #217 NFB) had fallen onto Broadway from the overpass (the rear end of the trailer was still on I-44) crushing the cab, rupturing the trailer and both saddle tanks, and spilling the contents of the trailer and 100-200 gallons of diesel fuel. The fire department didn't know the chemical composition of the explosive because the bill of lading was unreadable. At this time the police and fire departments had evacuated the area within a half mile radius of the wreck. Atlas recommended to the fire department that they dilute the compound to a 50% liquid solution to make it less dangerous. I called the Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant about some of this runoff possibly entering the sewer system. The diesel fuel was washed into the storm ditch. There was diesel fuel in the storm ditch behind the Interstate Inn on Norton Road. The explosive itself was a thick, heavy white substance that was apparently not too water soluble as it didn't move much from the spot where it was spilled. I checked the lakes at Dickerson Park Zoo at 6:00 a.m. and could find no evidence of diesel fuel in them at that time. Gene Pabst and Steve Short talked to Paul Price, curator of the zoo, who said he had seen a sheen of oil on Hamlin Lake, but neither Gene or Steve saw any oil on the lake at 7:30 a.m. Gene and Steve also said that none of the fish in the lake appeared to be in stress at this time. At 7:00 a.m., two representatives of Atlas arrived. They were Paul Therriault, Technical Superintendent, and Jerry Fisher, a manager of the company. They said that the truck had been carrying 46,000 lbs. of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil. I advised them to report the spill to state and federal authorities within 24 hrs. At 8:30 a.m., a tank truck from Atlas arrived and began pumping up the material around the truck. John Nixon and Sam Brenneke, an Environmental Emergency Specialist from the Department of Natural Resources from Jefferson City, were at the site to observe the pumping operation. The company pumped up the material until 5:00 p.m. and spread sawdust onto the ground. The street was barricaded overnight. On Friday morning, personnel from Atlas scraped up 1" of topsoil from the spill site and put new soil on top of it.

cc: Mr. Chuck Kroeger, Department of Natural Resources  
Mr. Robert Schaefer, P.E., Superintendent of Sanitary Services

*Karen Chandler*  
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SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Pollution Control Insp. II  
Surveillance & Enforcement

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